



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY AFTER CONSPIRING TO HAVE 14-KILOS OF MARIJUANA MAILED TO U.S. FROM MEXICO

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a second Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a conspiracy involving almost 14 kilograms of marijuana.

David L. Franklin, 25, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to a charge contained in an Aug. 13, 2004, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Franklin** admitted that he conspired with others to possess with intent to distribute marijuana between July 26 and 29, 2004, in Kansas City. Specifically, **Franklin** admitted that he and **Charles E. Levingston**, 34, also of Kansas City, conspired to have several packages originating from Mexico delivered to a residence in Kansas City that contained a total of approximately 13.925 kilograms of marijuana. In addition to pleading guilty to his role in the marijuana conspiracy, **Franklin** also agreed to the forfeiture of any property derived as a result of the conspiracy, including approximately \$10,434 that law enforcement seized when **Franklin** and **Levingston** were arrested.

On May 20, 2005, **Levingston** also pleaded guilty to his role in the marijuana conspiracy and agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the conspiracy.

Under federal law, Graves explained, the co-defendants may be subject to maximum sentences of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus fines up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow